

Groundsmaster 52, will be available for the 1977 season.

The mid-sized Groundsmaster 52 triple rotary is designed to provide high work-rate cutting of areas up to 18 acres a day, but extreme manoeuvrability makes it eminently suitable to mow and trim areas of an acre or less.

The new machine features hydrostatic drive with single pedal control for both forward and reverse. This was a major aspect for widespread acceptance in the United Kingdom of the larger Toro Groundsmaster 72 by large institutional users and contractors.

The versatile 84in. Hydraulic Triplex has a height of cut adjustment between 3/8 in and 2 1/2 in. enabling it to be used in a wide variety of situations.

Substantial Grass Seed Price Increase expected

TWYFORD SEEDS LIMITED, are warning sports and amenity grass seed users that they can expect a substantial increase in many grass seed prices in 1977.

Mr Barry Gill, Head of Herbage at Twyford Seeds said that the surplus grass seed both in the U.K., and on the Continent has been rapidly eroded. Denmark had a major problem with grass seed surpluses which have been sold at very low prices. However, due to increased domestic and foreign usage, the surplus has been very much reduced and prices are rising daily. The current U.S. market is also very buoyant.

The growers prices of last year did not meet the expectations of grass seed producers and there has been a substantial decrease in the acreage of seed for 1976 harvesting. This is particularly true of the perennial ryegrasses.

The drought has hit the grass seed producer as much as the grass user. Yields of grass seed have generally been well below average.

Mr. Gill pointed out that grass seed for sale 1976 must all be E.E.C. Certified (or the equivalent). "This", said Mr. Gill, "will also lead to some price increase as certification is costly and the low grade uncertified seed, which is comparatively inexpensive, will not be available".

Mr. Jonathan Franks, Head of the Sports Turf Division of Twyford Seeds said that the demand for grass seed had been very high following the recent rain. "Most grassland has been affected by the drought. Newly sown spring seeds never took in many cases and even established grassland has become very patchy. Many people are direct seeding to improve their grassland and demand for seed has been tremendous, especially for purpose bred amenity varieties such as Manhattan".

"Already grass prices have had to be increased as replacement costs soar" said Mr. Franks, "and the high demand, coupled with a shortage of supply, is bound to push prices up even more".

Twyford say that grass seed purchasers should be very careful in their selection of seeds as many mixtures could contain a high proportion of less suited varieties in order to keep the cost of mixtures down. This, they say, could lead to a real dissaving where maintenance costs are drastically increased.

Canadian G.S.A. meet Ransomes

DURING A TOUR OF North America which included visits to distributors in Miami, San Francisco, Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal, Guy Catch-